

Outlining some details of her upcoming budget proposal, Perdue announced that her upcoming budget will not eliminate any state-supported teacher or teaching assistant positions in the state.

Her budget, to be released later this week, will also consolidate 14 state agencies into eight, privatize some state services and offer an early retirement package to some employees to further reduce the size of state government.

“The budget that I deliver to you later this week is \$2.2 billion less than the budget that I inherited in 2009. It spends 11 percent less per capita and sheds thousands of state positions,” Perdue said. “North Carolina must be more agile, more responsive to citizens - less bureaucratic - as we focus our limited resources on our core missions of jobs and education.”

Perdue highlighted the robust growth of private sector jobs since the start of her administration, citing 58,000 new jobs and \$12.5 billion in new investments since she took office.

“The story of North Carolina is still being written, and this chapter is ours,” Perdue said. “Someday, when our children learn of our present struggle and the choices we made - when they read the history of this moment - they will turn the page, and learn that in this Great State, we, like our forbearers, refused to betray our future just to soothe the sting of our present need.”

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To read the full speech online, go to <http://www.governor.state.nc.us/>

**GOVERNOR’S FEATURED GUESTS INCLUDED:**

- Brian Crump, paramedic from Catawba County; his wife, Darlene
- Gordon Jones, CEO, Clearwater Paper Co.
- Wayne Branch, president, LSG Printing; his wife, Anita Powers Branch
- Jennifer Facciolini, N.C. Teacher of the Year

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